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Columbia University is committed to fostering an environment that is free from gender-based discrimination and harassment, including sexual assault and all other forms of gender-based misconduct. The University recognizes its responsibility to increase awareness of such misconduct, prevent its occurrence, diligently investigate reports of misconduct, support students and others who experience gender-based misconduct, and respond fairly and firmly when students violate University policy. The University is also committed to supporting students accused of gender-based misconduct who go through the disciplinary process. In addressing issues of gender-based misconduct, all members of the University must respect and care for one another in a manner consistent with our deeply held academic and community values.

Here are several important points about gender-based misconduct that the Policy addresses:

- Sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, gender-based harassment, stalking, domestic violence, and dating violence are all forms of gender-based misconduct. In some instances, behavior that is not sexual in nature (including comments meant in jest) can be considered gender-based misconduct.
- Gender-based misconduct can occur between strangers or acquaintances, or people who know each other well, including between people involved in an intimate or sexual relationship.
- Gender-based misconduct can be committed by anyone regardless of gender identity, and it can occur between people of the same or different sex or gender.

Students who believe they have been subjected to gender-based discrimination or harassment are encouraged to report these incidents and should immediately call the Program Office or their Resident Adviser. Program staff and all University employees are obligated to report any event of misconduct, harassment or discrimination of which they become aware.

Once the Program receives a report of gender-based misconduct, the information will be provided to Columbia University Public Safety and Student Conduct and Community Standards. Additionally, the parents or guardians of all involved students will be contacted.

The Gender-Based Misconduct Office within Student Conduct and Community Standards (“the Office”) serves as the central point of contact for all University students affected by gender-based misconduct. After receiving a report, the Office will contact each party to discuss relevant options for resolution. The Office will make the final determination regarding the appropriate resolution process and can require an investigation even if the parties request to engage in a different resolution process. The Office also has the authority to take immediate and corrective action to address all alleged misconduct and any additional alleged Policy violations that have occurred. The Office, in consultation with the appropriate Title IX Coordinator(s), will determine if action is appropriate. If selected by the students and/or if the Office deems necessary, an investigation will be initiated. The Office will designate a two-person team (“the Investigative Team”) to conduct an investigation into whether a violation of the Policy occurred. All Title IX Investigators will have extensive training in investigating and evaluating conduct prohibited under the Policy. The Investigative Team will be impartial and unbiased. Moreover, due to the short duration of the Programs, the investigation may be appropriately expedited.

When a student is found responsible a sanction will be imposed. Sanctions will be fair and appropriate, given the facts of a particular case; consistent with the University’s handling of similar cases; adequate to protect the safety of the campus community; and reflective of the seriousness of gender-based misconduct. Sanctions may include dismissal from the Program. In some cases, the New York State Child Abuse and Maltreatment Hotline may be contacted; which may lead to the local police being notified.

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